

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 12-14 have been amended, claims 49 and 50 have been added, and claims 3-14, 49 and 50 are pending and under consideration. No new matter has been added in this Amendment.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The applicants conducted an interview with the Examiner on Friday, January 11, 2008. The applicants confirm that the Examiner Interview Summary filed by the Examiner accurately describes the substance of the interview.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 3-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Copeland III (U.S. Publication 2002/0144156) in view of Hasuo et al. (U.S. Patent 5,367,704). As discussed in the interview, the Examiner agreed that the amendments are sufficient to overcome the prior art of record. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 3-7 and 9-11 should be withdrawn.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Copeland III (U.S. Publication 2002/0144156) in view of Hasuo et al. (U.S. Patent 5,367,704) and in further view of Goodwin, III et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/006591). As discussed in the interview, the Examiner agreed that the amendments are sufficient to overcome the prior art of record. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 3-7 and 9-11 should be withdrawn.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Copeland III (U.S. Publication 2002/0144156) in view of Humes (U.S. Patent 5,996,011). As discussed in the interview, the Examiner agreed that the amendments are sufficient to overcome the prior art of record. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 3-7 and 9-11 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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